

Serial No.: 10/697,424

Filing Date: 10/30/2003

Attorney Docket No. 100.405US01

Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR SYNCHRONOUS LOADING AND OUT-OF-PHASE UNLOADING OF DATA REGISTERS

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed on June 23, 2006 has been reviewed. Claims 1-20 are pending in this application.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 7-8, 10, and 13 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(a) as being anticipated by Buckenmaier (U.S. Patent No. 5,857,005). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1 recites in relevant part “a first data register comprising a data input coupled to a data signal, a clock input coupled to a clock signal, an enable input coupled to a periodic first load signal, and a data output;” and “a second data register comprising a data input coupled to the data output of the first data register, a clock input coupled to the clock signal, an enable input coupled to a second load signal, and a data output”.

The Office Action took the position that memory cells 212 and 214 of Buckenmaier teach the “first data register” and “second data register” recited in claim 1 of the present application.

However, Buckenmaier clearly indicates that the clock signal used by memory cell 212 (which is the INCLOCK 204) is different than the clock signal used by memory cell 214 (which is the OUTCLOCK 206). See, e.g., Buckenmaier, Figure 2 and col. 4, lines 21-25.

Claims 2 and 7-8 ultimately depend from claim 1 and, therefore, at least the argument set forth above with respect to claim 1 applies to these claims as well.

It is respectfully submitted that at least the argument set forth above with respect to claim 1 applies to claim 10 and 13 (which depends from claim 10) as well.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Buckenmaier (U.S. Patent No. 5,857,005) as applied to claim 1 above.

Claim 9 ultimately depends from claim 1 and, therefore, at least the argument set forth above with respect to claim 1 applies to this claim as well.

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Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-6, 11-12, 14-15 and 16-17 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 16-20 were allowed.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3-6, 11-12, 14-15 and 16-17 are allowable in their present form.

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

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CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that claims **1-20** are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 502432.

If the Examiner has any questions or concerns regarding this application, please contact the undersigned at 612.455.1681.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 9/25/2006



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